

REMARKS

I. Introduction.

Claims 1-29 and 31-37 are pending, and stand rejected. The pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a).

II. The 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) Rejection.

Claims 1-4, 8-9, 11-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT Publication WO 97/48927, Hawes in view of either U.S. Patent 3,915,738 issued to Willard, Sr. or U.S. Patent 4,715,391 issued to Scheller.

The Office Action states that Hawes discloses a process of cleaning a surface comprising contacting the surface with an aqueous composition where the composition comprises a polymer to make the surface hydrophilic, then rinsing the surface with purified water by using a hand held sprayer attached to a garden hose that differs from the claims only in the recitation of the composition having a pH less than 9. The Office Action goes onto state that Scheller and Willard disclose a process for cleaning a surface where there is employed a composition having a pH of less than 9, and that it would therefore have been obvious to have modified the composition of Hawes to have a pH of less than 9.

The Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. The combination of references cited does not teach or disclose a composition that makes the surface hydrophilic. The cleaning composition in the Hawes reference includes a rinse indicator such as a quaternary surfactant which causes the rinse water to bead up when sufficient rinsing has been completed. Page 5, first full paragraph. The beading of water indicates that the surface would be hydrophobic. Neither the Scheller reference, nor the Willard, Sr. reference appear to disclose anything about the cleaning composition therein being hydrophilic. Therefore, the combination does not render the claimed invention obvious.

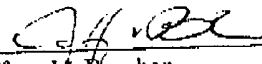
III. Claims 5-7 and 10.

Claims 5-7 and 10 do not appear to be subject to any rejections. The Examiner is requested to notify the Applicants if these claims would be considered to be allowable if placed in independent form.

IV. Summary.

The 35 U.S.C. Section 103 rejection has been addressed. In view of the foregoing, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
BRUCE BARGER, ET AL.

By 
Jeffrey V. Bamber
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 31,148
(513) 627-4597

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